

## TA Report 3.18.11

### **250 SHUTESBURY Always cooler**

**250<sup>th</sup> March 18, Friday, 6:00pm** Supper with New England dishes from 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries, a benefit by and for the People of the Past working group, Shutesbury Athletic Club, \$5 donation.

**250<sup>th</sup> February- March:** First photo exhibit of Shutesbury scenes then and now, Shutesbury Athletic Club

**250<sup>th</sup> March 28, Monday, 7:00pm** The Mayflower, by Nathaniel Philbrick, book discussion with Neal Salisbury, Professor Emeritus at Smith College, at Town Hall

**FIRE STATION CLEAN UP** Our first look of the year at the wetlands by the fire station is optimistic after the removal of 3000 tons of contaminated soil. There is a smaller orange stained area where the original outbreak was last year; the orange color is iron released by bacteria that is eating the gasoline underground and in the wetlands. Last year the area was more wide spread. The bacteria use up all the oxygen in the groundwater and this causes the breakdown of the iron oxide in the natural soil. As the ground water moves into surface water the iron picks up oxygen again and is deposited on the stream bottom as a rusty looking stain. The good news is as the snow recedes we have detected only a very small spot of the blue gasoline sheen. We will continue to monitor the wetland. Test wells will be put back in this spring.

The Selectboard met this Friday morning with Licensed Site Professional, Jim Okun, and evaluated the four options available and what long-term classifications they lead to. They are, 1) do nothing now and continue to monitor, 2) do a pilot soil venting extraction (SVE) test to determine if the remediation method will have any impact given glacial till soil conditions at the site, 3) surgical removal of contaminated soil under the building, and 4) build a new fire station, tear down the existing fire station and remove all contaminated soil from underneath it.

The first option is test, wait, and analyze the impact of the work done last year.

The second is soil vent extraction. We received a new quote this week for the soil venting extraction (SVE) pilot test of \$17,200 plus electricity. The last quote was for \$30,000. The test will be conducted with three 12' wells and will run for 7 days using carbon filtration to remove the gasoline vapors. After the test phase a catalytic incinerator would be used. The test will tell us if this method will work or not. If it works half of the test equipment will be used in the full installation of the SVE system that would run for 6 months up to 3 years. We discussed how to house the equipment so it will not be a sound problem for abutters.

Al Springer, Selectman and master carpenter and contractor Rus Wilson evaluated whether it was possible to support the building, remove the floors and dig up the contaminated soil from underneath the rescue bay and the area to the east with low ceilings and the area to the south with high ceilings. They determined it was possible and calculated a rough cost estimate. Our LSP emphasized the cautionary safety steps that would have to be taken working with this combustible material inside the fire station. Fire deterrent foam would be used, fans set up for ventilation and contents of the building would need to be removed. This surgical removal method has the highest risk factor of all the options while the total cost would be similar to the soil venting extraction (SVE).

The final method, removal of the fire station structure, is the most comprehensive and a multi-million dollar solution. A new fire station would have to be built first. Then the existing building would be torn down and we would bring in heavy equipment to remove the contaminated soil found under the building. We have not yet found a source of grant money that would help offset the cost of this project.

The Selectboard voted to move ahead with the pilot test soil venting extraction (SVE). Planning will begin immediately and possibly be done in the next month. While the surgical removal option is clearly of interest our LSP, licensed site professional, estimated the results

between the SVE, if the pilot test works, and the surgical removal, are similar only about 3-5% different. The risk of the SVE remediation method is that it might not work. The surgical removal remediation has a potential risk to physical safety.

**AMHERST REGIONAL 4 TOWN MEETING IN LEVERETT** The meeting was held upstairs in the Leverett town hall for the first time in recent years. The room was bustling; there were large windows, a wooden floor, a wall mural, and six large tables full of Selectboard, Finance Committee and School committee members from all four towns. Stan Rosenberg came with news from Boston. Not much good news! He said. There have been recent role changes in leadership so it will be an interesting year. It is unknown where the legislature will come out on chapter 70, educational aid to cities and towns, compared to the Governor's commitment to not cut. The Governor estimated a minus 7% in unrestricted aid (lottery) but Stan says that should not be cut. This is important to Amherst, because it means \$500,000, but not so much to the other towns. For Shutesbury the impact is minus \$10,041.

Supt. Maria Gyrek and Finance Director Rob Detweiller reviewed the proposed budget.

Supt. Maria Gyrek reviewed economic trends that are putting stress on the community as whole. These issue impact the classroom. The superintendent is working on community wide strategies to create better conditions through collaboration. I was reassured that we are part of regional community that deeply cares about education and the human condition.

All four towns said they could support the budget presented with current chap. 70 aid assumption of. The increase to Amherst is 3%, \$393,284, to Leverett, 3.48%, \$41,625, Pelham, 3.84%, \$43,307, Shutesbury, (minus) -\$10,190. Shutesbury's rolling average enrollment has been declining faster than the other towns. If chapter 70 falls we all agreed to meet again to discuss how to fund the regional budget. Most likely Regional Excess and Deficiency funds will be used and potentially cuts to the budget as proposed. As always the schools are dependent on the state budget to some extent.

Farshid Hajir, Leverett School Committee Chairman and member of the statewide Regionalization Committee gave an update on the Committee's process and work. He said that he is proposing incentivizing regionalization and that changes will not be implemented as soon as we have feared.

**DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY!** The years sneak up on all of us...Dr. Seuss, March 2, 1904! What a wonderful event. Don't miss it next year. The library always makes it special!

